

These Days

Senator Dodd's Contribution

By George E. Sokolsky

PERHAPS for the first time since 1933, a genuine foreign policy debate has been continuous in the United States Senate. There was a possibility years ago, of such a debate when Senator Arthur Vandenberg, of Michigan, led the Republicans. But Vandenberg, an isolationist, with astounding suddenness joined the forces of the internationalists.



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Curiously, in the present debate, it is a Democrat whose voice is most constantly raised against a foreign policy which has often produced marked failure. Senator Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut, a Democrat, has, in his first term in the Senate, made an astonishingly significant reputation for scholarship and profound penetration into foreign policy.

Recently, Lyle Munson, who runs "The Bookmailler," edited and published a number of Senator Dodd's speeches in a book which covers a wide range of subjects.

Describing our national purpose, Senator Dodd said: "To the peoples of Europe . . . patriotism has its roots in the past and represents a love of all the similarities and things shared in common with their countrymen. But we in America, in the early years of our nation, had no past. We had great

differences than similarities. Our people had no common history except that of escape from the histories of a score of other nations.

"We had no common religion except a heritage of seeking religious freedom. We had no common tongue, no common nationality, no national music or art, no folk tales, no national literature except for the political writings of our founding fathers.

"All that we had in common with which to mold a united nation, was a new set of ideas, of attitudes, of institutions; untried, unproved, yet having the universality hopes and yearnings of mankind for a better and fuller life. And we shared together a new virgin continent upon which we could try out our experiment."

THE QUESTION then is: what is this experiment to produce? Surely, if the American experiment is to mean nothing more than a high standard of living — more automobiles, more ice boxes, more steaks—the terrific cost in human effort was not worthwhile. Senator Dodd answers.

"That the state exists to serve man and that man's property, his family, his property, his family and his individual rights are above and beyond the reach of the state.

"That every man should have a fair chance to succeed or to fail on his own, a square deal, a clear field.

"That every man should be

able to speak his piece without fear or reprisal;

"That every man should have an equal voice in choosing those who govern him . . ."

Writing of our enemy, Senator Dodd wrote:

"Perhaps the most popular phrase of those who minimize the evils of Communism is that we cannot look at the world scene in terms 'black and white,' which, of course, carries the implication that both the Free World and the Communist World are at fault for the present danger and that each side has its good points and its bad points. I willingly concede our bad points, but I have never been able to discover the good points of communism."

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